

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/706,945

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filing Date: November 14, 2003

Examiner: A. Dunwoody

Title: TUBE JOINT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the attached form and document(s) indicate information of which the applicant(s) has/have recently become aware and which may be relevant to the above-identified application.

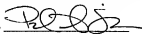
The information is in the form of references, which were cited in an office action (mailing date November 28, 2006) in a counterpart foreign patent application pending before the Japanese Patent Office (JPO). A copy of the JPO office action (including a summary translation thereof) is attached, together with copies of the reference(s) cited therein. Partial English translations and/or English language summaries of the citations are attached with each of the references.

In addition, the indication that these reference(s) has/have been cited in a foreign counterpart application

satisfies the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance, as noted in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, MPEP § 609.

37 CFR 1.97(e) Statement. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Signed,

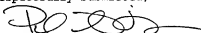

Paul A. Guss

Date: February 9, 2007

This information is being submitted after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) on May 3, 2005, but before mailing of any subsequent office action pursuant to the RCE. Accordingly, no additional fees are currently due with this submission. The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of this information by initialing and returning a copy of the IDS form (PTO/SB/08a) attached herewith.

Should any other fees be considered due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, such fees may be charged to Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul A. Guss
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 33,099

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 14-40 PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/706,945
Filing Date	November 14, 2003
First Named Inventor	Yoshihiro Fukano et al.
Art Unit	3679
Examiner Name	Dunwoody
Attorney Docket Number	CS-31-031114

Sheet	1	of	1
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patents or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant: Passages Or Relevant Figure Appear	+
		Country Code* Number* and Code* of Agent	MM-DD-YYYY			
		JP 62-110093	05-21-1987			
		JP 04-175595	06-23-1992			
		JP 3032308	10-02-1996			
		JP 10-289964	11-13-1998			
		JP 3041899	07-16-1997			
		JP 51-38122	03-30-1976			

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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EXAMINER: Fill in reference condensed, whether or not citation is in conformance with WFO #28. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not condensed. Indicate copy of title form, serial, list, or condensed to applicant. Applicant's unique claim designation number (optional). *See Kinds Code and USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or WFO #01.04. *Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WFO Standard ST.3). *For USPTO Patent Documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. *Ind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WFO Standard ST.16 if possible. *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

Transmittal is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is in the (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 USC 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application forms to the USPTO. This will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time required to complete this form and/or other suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETE FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.